



**F E D E R A L  
S T U D E N T A I D**

*We Help Put America Through School*

## **Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) Monthly Status Report**

**July 1, 2002  
through  
July 31, 2002**



## Support and Efforts

- The FSA Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) initiative provides for the following efforts:
  - Identify and research disruptive technologies, FSA enterprise project topics, and projects that have non-standard technical needs for the AWG agenda
  - Select, build and populate an FSA enterprise architecture support tool, to follow the modified Zachman framework
  - Maintain the Policies, Standards and Products Guide, the Technology Infrastructure Blueprint document and TIB web site.



## Between July 1, 2002 and July 31, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) remained operational.

### Activities: July 1, 2002 – July 31, 2002

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#### **Architecture Working Group (AWG) Activities**

- Prepared for the AWG meetings scheduled for July 10 and 24. The July 24 meeting was held, while the July 10 meeting was postponed due to limited member availability.
  - Presented a project update of the CRM for FSA effort to the AWG.
  - AWG members reviewed and commented on the ASG's Electronic Mass Mailing White Paper
  - Notified the members that the feedback we received was being consolidated and will be presented at the next AWG meeting.
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#### **Architecture Support Group (ASG) Activities**

- Completed the Electronic Mass Mailing white paper and presented it at the July 24 AWG meeting.
  - Followed-up with the School and Students channel is being conducted to understand the impact of the recommendations.
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#### **Technology Infrastructure Blueprint**

- Continued building the Technology Infrastructure Database with updated and expanded information. Started development of reports to assist with change management and system administration impact analysis.
- The TIB web version will be updated once the product has been accepted.
- Added a reusable common services web page which has all the available executable components for use by the software developers.



## **Between July 1, 2002 and July 31, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) remained operational.**

### **Activities: July 1, 2002 – July 31, 2002 (continued)**

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#### **Technology Policies, Standards and Products Guide**

- The Technology Policies, Standards and Products Guide was updated in June and was made available on the FSA intranet and extranet web sites.

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#### **Enterprise Architecture Tool Selection**

- The Popkin System Architect was installed on a Windows NT 4.0 server at the VDC on August 5.
- The test plan was executed to ensure the software was operational.
- Began defining the process of collecting the support tool requirements and links in the framework.
- Met with selected FSA SMEs to review their current artifacts and determine how they will be captured in the support tool.

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#### **BTA General Improvements**

- The AWG orientation documentation has been updated to increase the focus on aligning the business needs with technology solutions.
- Conducted one-on-one interviews with each AWG member to understand member expectations for the work of the group.
- Aggregated the member feedback into a summary to present at the next AWG meeting for discussion.
- Defined a new strategy and charter for AWG meetings.





## Issues and Risks.

**July 1, 2002 – July 30, 2002**

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### **Enterprise Architecture level of effort is still unknown**

- It is not known, at this point, the level of effort required to collect and categorize the artifacts, however, it is expected that the first two rows of the modified Zachman Framework will be populated by the end of the fiscal year. The first two rows are : Scope (contextual) and Enterprise Model (conceptual).
- A request for an updated copy of the Department of Education's modified Zachman framework went to Barry Stone on July 31. Updates to the framework were received August 8.



## Planned activities for next month

**August 1, 2002 – August 31, 2002**

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### **AWG Support - need to update**

- Coordinate and conduct the next meetings (scheduled for August 21)
- Topics planned to be addressed during subsequent meetings:
  - Adoption of the Electronic Mass Mailing Recommendation
  - Updates to the FSA Security Policy
  - Content Delivery Network (CDN)
  - Software upgrades to the EAI environment
- Additional topics of enterprise interest could include an overview on wireless use as a selected disruptive technology topics

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### **ASG Activities Support**

- Ongoing coordination and support activities

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### **BTA Awareness**

- Review the AWG Orientation package with the AWG members to reinforce the functional understanding of the group.
- Verifying the attendance of each AWG member.
- Update the AWG Orientation package with feedback received from the AWG members.

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### **Enterprise Architecture Tool**

- Continue developing the EA metamodel.
- Begin populating the EA tool with information from FSA enterprise artefacts.



# Appendices

## Appendix I:

- Updated Project Plan for BTA Phase III
- AWG Meeting Materials for June
- ASG Draft Electronic Mass Mailing white paper
- AWG Member Feedback
- Draft AWG Process deck
- Technology Infrastructure Blueprint
- Popkin System Architect Configuration Guide & Test Plan